

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /079 W  
----- 122251

R 211057Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 933

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 175

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE DISAGREES ON CONTENTS  
FINAL CONVENTION REPORT

REF: BELFAST 172

1. TWELVE MAN CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE COMPLETED SIX WORK DAYS OF MEETINGS AND SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROCEDURAL RULES FOR NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO PUBLISHER MAY 19. ALL 78 DELEGATES HAD COPIES BY MAY 20 AND CONVENTION WILL MEET FOR SECOND SHORT SESSION MAY 22. PROPOSED RULES NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED BE DEBATED HOWEVER UNTIL MAY 27.

2. RULES COMMITTEE OMPOSED OF SEVEN MEMBERS FROM UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION, (UUUC), THREE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) AND ONE EACH UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND (UPNI) AND ALLIANCE PARTY. DURING COURSE THEIR DELIBERATIONS THERE CONSIDERABLE PRESS SPECULATION THAT UUUC LOYALISTS "STEAMROLLING" THEIR WAY WITH MAJORITY VOTES AND PRESS PREDICTIONS THAT CONVENTION  
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ALREADY ON WAY TO FAILURE. IT APPEARS IN REALITY THAT

THERE TWENTY-FOUR VOTES DURING VARIOUS SESSIONS. FOURTEEN OF THESE WERE UNANIMOUS, EIGHT DIVIDED VOTES CARRIED BY UUUC WITH SUPPORT OF EITHER BOTH UPNI/ALLIANCE AND ONLY TWO CARRIED BY UUUC ON OWN. THESE TWO BELIEVED INCLUDE SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT OVER CONTENTS FINAL REPORT CONVENTION WILL SUBMIT TO WESTMINSTER. SDLP WANTS SEPARATE MINORITY REPORT WHILE UUUC BELIEVES SINGLE REPORT IS WHAT CALLED FOR BY CONVENTION ACT AND BY INTERPRETATION THIS LEGISLATION BY SECSTATE REES AND OTHERS IN PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS. UUUC POSITION IS MINORITY VIEW WOULD BE INCLUDED BOTH IN FINAL REPORT AND IN COVERAGE CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS. SDLP CONVENTION MEMBERS CONSULTED CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SIR ROBERT LOWRY MAY 20 AND REPORTEDLY ARE CONSIDERING SEEKING JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION OF ISSUE. OTHER MORE MINOR CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO QUEEN IN WORDING PRAYER FOR OPENING CONVENTION SESSIONS AND SDLP VIEW THAT PROPOSED ATTRIBUTIONS OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE WOULD WEAKEN AUTHORITY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN. SDLP LEADER CONFIRMED THAT COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS GENERALLY HARMONIOUS AND SAID CHIEF SDLP CONCERN NOW IS TO FIND MEANS ASSERT MINORITY VIEWS WITHOUT AROUSING ANIMOSITY OR RANCOUR OR EVEN SEEMING TO DO SO.

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